

ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE:

- 1        A method and apparatus for implementing a distributed firewall is described.
- 2        A packet filter processor receives a packet sent from a first device to a second device.
- 3        The packet filter processor authenticates an identifier for the packet. For example,
- 4        authentication could be performed using a cryptographically-verifiable identifier. The
- 5        packet filter processor determines whether to send the packet to the second device,
- 6        based on the authentication and a set of policy rules. The packet filter processor sends
- 7        the packet to the second device in accordance with the determination.